

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 3-9 and 13-19 have been cancelled, claim 21 has been added, and claims 1, 10, 11 and 20 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 20 and 21 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 19 were objected to and several of the claims were rejected based on prior art to Yamaguchi et al., Finzi, Staab et al., and Ker et al. On the other hand, claims 9 and 19 (as well as respective dependent claims 10 and 20) were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In the claims listing set forth above, claim 1 had been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 9 (as well as intervening claims 5 and 7). Similarly, claim 11 has been amended to recite the features of allowable claim 19 (as well as intervening claims 14 and 17). As a result, both of amended independent claims 1 and 11 should now be in immediate condition for allowance, as should all claims dependent thereon, including new claim 21. The pending prior art-based claim rejections are moot in view of these claim amendments.

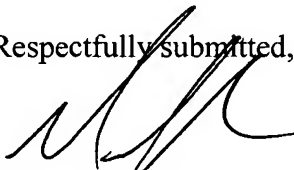
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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Attachments: None.

MB/LDE/dkp

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